

Agassiz

My dear Gray,

Though I thank you for your valuable remarks, I should have saved you some hesitation by stating more distinctly that I did not intend to institute a comparison of ^{the} Lake Superior plants with those of Europe generally, but simply with those of the Tura & Alps. My special knowledge is too limited to undertake so vast a task. Your difficulties about the separate lists might also be removed on considering what I remarked of the greater difficulty to draw lines over flat countries; I have allowed myself often to be determined by the well ascertained limits along our slopes of the analogous plants ^{corresponding to those} found on this continent. Again there should be no great objection at finding some of these plants extending very far south, as it is a peculiarity of this continent to send forth its northern species far southward, animals as well as plants. Many identical birds of the arctic fauna which never cross the Alps in Europe, reach the gulf of Mexico in their migration in America. This again influenced me. The 2^d list you should I think acknowledge, as the aquatic flora from really everywhere peculiar features in the countries where they occur, though it is sometimes very difficult to draw the lines. In the 3^d list I have strictly American types, & i. v. l. genera peculiar to America, or typical species which have no representatives in Europe, & although 2/3 of the plants of the first list are as you say also strictly American, they may be considered a part ^{non-generally} of the character of the temperate zone as such, as they have corresponding representatives in Europe & Asia. But of course I am not in every instance sufficiently familiar with all the analogous or subanalogous to pick out the closest resemblance. Your extensive knowledge affords therefore indispensable aid for which I can not enough repeat my thanks. I shall have another proof of the doubtful species for you. If you had a moment we might run through my parcels & you could take what you want.

Your friend
Agassiz

Monday night.



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